

CLAIMS

1. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

forming a scope window displaying one or more scope items therein;

5 forming a first primary display window displaying one or more first primary objects linked to the scope window; and

forming a second primary display window displaying one or more second primary objects linked to the scope window wherein the second primary objects displayed by the second primary display window are independent of the first primary objects displayed by the first primary display window.

2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of forming a third primary display window displaying third primary objects linked to the scope window wherein the third primary objects are independent of the first primary objects and wherein the third primary objects are independent
5 of the second primary objects.

3. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

5 forming a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the first primary display window wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects.

4. The computer-readable medium of claim 3, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third secondary display window displaying third secondary objects linked to the first primary display window wherein the third secondary objects are

independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary objects.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

5 linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that a command or selection in the first secondary display window changes the focus or content of the scope window.

6. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the linking between the first primary objects and the scope window is defined by an application developer or a user so that parameters are passed from the scope window to the first primary display window and wherein the passed parameters are used in a query to provide data to the first primary display window which determines how it will be displayed.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 6, wherein the query operates on a database to display a selected set of the first primary objects in the first primary window.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the scope window, the first primary display window and the second primary display window form a workspace view which is saved either as a local view on a local drive or as a global view in a database shared by multiple users.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item in the scope window, wherein the first primary objects are linked to the selected scope item and wherein the second primary objects are linked to the selected scope item.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third primary display window displaying third primary objects linked to the selected scope item wherein the third primary objects are independent of the first primary objects and wherein the third primary objects are independent of the second primary objects.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first primary display window, and said computer-readable medium having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

forming a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11, having further computer-executable instructions for forming a third secondary display window displaying third secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary objects.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first display window, and said computer-readable medium having further computer-executable instructions for:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that the first secondary objects displayed in the first secondary display window are linked to the selected scope item in the scope window.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for defining window types, wherein the scope window, the first primary display window, and second primary display window are associated with one of the window types.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the window types include one or more of the following: a table, a graph, a list, a list control, a topological view, and a text window.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, having further computer-executable instructions for allowing a user to convert the scope window, the first primary display window, and/or second primary display window from one window type to another window type.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of defining window types as a function of data driven from a query, wherein the type of driven data determines the window type.

18. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:
a scope window displaying one or more scope items therein and allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item;

5 a first primary display window displaying one or more first primary objects linked to the selected scope item; and

a second primary display window displaying one or more second primary objects linked to the selected scope item wherein the linking between the second primary objects and the selected scope items is independent of the linking between the first primary objects and the selected scope item.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the user selects at least one first primary object in the first primary display window and further comprising:

a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

- 5 a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the linking between the second secondary objects and the selected first primary object is independent of the linking between the first secondary objects and the selected first primary object.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first display window and further comprising:

a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window and linked to the scope window.

21. In a computer system having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, a method of providing a display comprising the steps of:

- forming a scope window;
 retrieving scope items for display in the scope window;
 5 forming a first primary display window;
 retrieving first primary objects linked to the scope window for display in the first primary display window;
 forming a second primary display window; and
 retrieving second primary objects linked to the scope window for display in the second
 10 primary display window wherein the second primary objects are independent of the first primary objects.

22. The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

- allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item;
 wherein the retrieved first primary objects are linked to the selected scope item and are displayed in the first display window;
 5 wherein the retrieved second primary objects are linked to the selected scope item and are display in the second primary display window; and

wherein the linking between the first primary objects and the selected scope item is independent of the linking between the second primary objects and the selected scope item.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising the step of forming a third primary display window displaying third primary objects linked to the scope window wherein the third primary objects are independent of the first primary objects and wherein the third primary objects are independent of the second primary objects.

24. The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

forming a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects
5 linked to the first primary display window wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects.

25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of forming a third secondary display window displaying third secondary objects linked to the first primary display window wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary objects.

26. The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

linking the first secondary display window to the scope window.

27. A computer system having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, said system comprising:

means for retrieving scope items in response to administrator and/or user input;

means for displaying the retrieved scope items in a scope window;

5 means for retrieving first primary objects linked to the scope window in response to administrator and/or user input;

means for displaying the retrieved first primary objects in a first primary display window;

10 means for retrieving second primary objects linked to the scope window in response to administrator and/or user input wherein the second primary objects and the scope window is independent of the linking between the first primary objects and the scope window; and

means for displaying the retrieved second primary objects in a second primary display window.

28. A method of allowing a user or an administrator to define windows comprising the steps of:

forming a scope window displaying scope items therein in response to instructions from the user or administrator;

5 allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item;

forming a first primary display window displaying first primary objects;

linking the first primary objects to the selected scope item in accordance with instructions from the user or administrator;

forming a second primary display window displaying second primary objects; and

10 linking the second primary objects to the selected scope item in accordance with instructions from the user or administrator wherein the step of linking the second primary objects is independent of the step of linking the first primary objects.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the linking between the first primary objects and the scope window is defined by an application developer or a user so that parameters are passed from the scope window to the first primary display window and wherein the passed parameters are used in a query to control the display of the first primary objects in the first
5 primary display window.

30. The method of claim 28 wherein the scope window, the first primary display window and the second primary display window form a workspace view which is saved either as a local view on a local drive or as a global view in a database shared by multiple users.

31. The method of claim 28 further comprising allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item in the scope window, wherein the first primary objects are linked to the selected scope item, wherein the second primary objects are linked to the selected scope item, and wherein the linking between the first primary objects and the selected scope item is
5 independent of the linking between the second primary objects and the selected scope item.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first primary display window and further performing the steps comprising:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

5 forming a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the second secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects.

33. The method of claim 32 further performing the step comprising forming a third secondary display window displaying third secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the first secondary objects and wherein the third secondary objects are independent of the second secondary
5 objects.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first display window and further performing the steps comprising:

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the selected first primary object; and

- 5 linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that the first secondary objects displayed in the first secondary display window are linked to the selected scope item in the scope window.

35. A computer system having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, said system comprising :

- means for displaying a scope window;
 means for displaying a first primary display window;
 5 means for linking the first primary display window to the scope window;
 means for displaying a second primary display window; and
 means for linking the second primary display window to the scope window, wherein the means for linking the first primary display window to the scope window is independent of the means for linking the second primary display window to the scope window.

36. The system of claim 35 further comprising:

- means for displaying a first secondary display window;
 means for linking the first secondary display window to the first primary display window;
 means for displaying a second secondary display window; and
 means for linking the second secondary display window to the first primary display window, wherein the means for linking the first secondary display window to the first primary display window is independent of the means for linking the second secondary display window to the first primary display window.

37. The system of claim 35 further comprising:

means for displaying a first secondary display window;

means for linking the first secondary display window to the first primary display window; and

5 means for linking the first secondary display window to the scope window.

38. A computer system having a graphical user interface including a display and a user interface selection device, said system comprising :

means for displaying a scope window;

means for permitting a user to select an item in the scope window;

5 means for displaying a first primary display window;

means for driving the first primary display window off of the user selected item in the scope window;

means for displaying a second primary display window; and

10 means for driving the second primary display window off of the user selected item in the scope window, wherein the means for driving the first primary window is independent of the means for driving the second primary display window.

39. The system of claim 38 further comprising:

means for displaying a first secondary display window;

means for permitting a user to select an item in the first primary display window;

5 means for driving the first secondary display window off of the user selected item in the first primary display window;

means for displaying a second secondary display window; and

means for driving the second secondary display window off of the user selected item in the first primary display window, wherein the means for driving the first secondary display window is independent of the means for driving the second secondary display window.

40. The system of claim 38 further comprising:
means for displaying a first secondary display window;
means for driving the first secondary display window off of a user selected item in the
first primary display window; and
5 means for linking the first secondary display window to the scope window.

41. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for
performing a method comprising:

forming a scope window displaying scope items therein;
forming a first primary display window displaying first primary objects linked to the
5 scope window;
forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to
the first primary display window; and
linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that the first
secondary display window communicates with the scope window.

42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, having further computer-executable
instructions for :

assigning a particular object within the first secondary display window with a task list;
sharing the assigned task list with other objects in the scope window;
5 permitting the user to execute a new task on the particular object; and
executing the new task on the other objects.

43. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for
performing a method comprising:

forming a scope window displaying scope items therein;
forming a first primary display window displaying first primary objects linked to the
5 scope window;

forming a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

linking the first secondary display window to the scope window so that a command or selection in the first secondary display window changes the focus or content of the scope window.

44. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

forming a scope window displaying scope items therein;

forming a first primary display window displaying first primary objects linked to the scope window; and

forming a second primary display window displaying second primary objects linked to the scope window; and

defining window types of the first primary display window and of the second primary display window as a function of data driven from a query, wherein the type of driven data determines the window type.

45. The computer-readable medium of claim 44, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of allowing a user to convert the scope window, the first primary display window, and/or second primary display window from one window type to another window type.

46. The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the window types include one or more of the following: a table, a graph, a list, a list control, a topological view, and a text window.

47. A computer readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, comprising: a scope window displaying scope items therein and allowing a user to select at least one displayed scope item;

- a first primary display window displaying first primary objects linked to the scope window and having an edge adjacent an edge of the scope window; and
- 5 a second primary display window displaying second primary objects linked to the scope window and having an edge adjacent to an edge of the scope window or an edge of the primary window wherein adjacent edges are docked to each other so that movement of one adjacent edge causes movement of the other adjacent edge.

48. The computer-readable medium of claim 47 wherein the linking between the second primary objects and the scope window is independent of the linking between the first primary objects and the scope window.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 further comprising:

a first secondary display window displaying first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window; and

- a second secondary display window displaying second secondary objects linked to the first primary display window wherein the linking between the second secondary objects and the first primary display window is independent of the linking between the first secondary objects and the first primary display window.
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50. The computer-readable medium of claim 48 wherein the users selects at least one first primary object in the first display window and wherein a first secondary display window displays first secondary objects linked to the first primary display window and linked to the scope window.